



## CBPC Legislative Actions

The CBPC legislative work group and Chair Stehle have worked with COG staff to track 2020 legislation.

- On behalf of the CBPC, staff have sent letters of support pertaining to three bills in the Virginia General Assembly. All of the bills listed below successfully passed.
  - Support for HB 520 (Bulova), Legislative Initiative to Convene a Department of Environmental Quality Stakeholder Advisory Group to study planting or preservation of trees as a stormwater best management practice.
  - Support for HB 981 (Herring)/SB 1027 (Lewis), Legislative Initiatives to Enable the Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act. This enters VA into RGGI and directly assists localities with flood management.
  - Support for Local Ordinances to Tax Disposable Plastic Bags (related to SB 11, Ebbin). The bill will allow any locality to impose a local tax on disposable bags and keep 3 cents until January 1, 2023, and 4 cents after this date.
- On March 12, the CBPC COG sent a letter in support of the Chesapeake Bay Program Funding Reauthorization in the amount of \$90.5 M for FY 2021, per the Reauthorization Bills S 701 (Cardin) and HB 1620 (Luria).
- Copies of the four letters listed above are attached.
- VA SLAF Funding: \$50 M has been budgeted for 2021-22.
- The CBPC has not taken advocacy positions on Maryland's 2020 Legislation thus far.
- Please let Heidi Bonnaffon, [hbonnaffon@mwkog.org](mailto:hbonnaffon@mwkog.org) or Katie Dyer, [Kdyer@mwkog.org](mailto:Kdyer@mwkog.org) know if you have any questions.

## CBPC Paper Competition

In response to the CBPC [Paper Competition](#), COG has received 11 topic submissions from the University of Maryland, George Mason, and Marymount University students pertaining to urban agriculture and ag sustainability topics. Presentations of top papers are scheduled for the May 15<sup>th</sup> CBPC meeting.



Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments

February 8, 2020

The Honorable David L. Bulova  
Virginia House of Delegates  
Pocahontas Building  
900 East Main Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

RE: Support for HB 520, Legislative Initiatives to Convene a Department of Environmental Quality Stakeholder Advisory Group

Dear Delegate Bulova,

On behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC), and the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CPBC), we are writing to offer our support for your bill (HB 520) that would convene a stakeholder advisory group to study planting or preservation of trees as a stormwater best management practice.

COG's Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee facilitates information exchange among local governments and is developing best practices for forest canopy management. The Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee would be glad to provide studies and relevant guidance to assist the study of stormwater best management practice by the stakeholder advisory group. Improved flood resiliency is a COG environmental policy priority and we support further information sharing of stormwater best management practices among municipalities, developers, industry, technical experts, and program authorities.

Please contact Steve Walz, COG's Director of Environmental Programs at (202) 962-3205 or [swalz@mwkog.org](mailto:swalz@mwkog.org) if you have any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Sze'.

Hon. Daniel Sze  
Chair, Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Stehle'.

Hon. Jon Stehle  
Chair, Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee

cc: The Honorable Alfonso H. Lopez  
The Honorable Mark L. Keam  
The Honorable Shelly A. Simonds



Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments

February 8, 2020

The Honorable Lynwood W. Lewis Jr.  
Virginia House of Delegates  
Pocahontas Building  
900 East Main Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

RE: Support for SB 1027, Legislative Initiatives to Enable the Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act

Dear Senator Lewis, Jr.,

On behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC), and the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CPBC), we are writing to offer our support for your bill (SB 1027) that would enter Virginia into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

The legislation would bring Virginia into RGGI, joining our regional neighbor Maryland, and provide that revenues from the sale of carbon allowances in part, to be directed to municipalities to develop low-income energy efficiency programs and flood resiliency initiatives. Supporting climate and flood resiliency initiatives is a COG policy priority and the bill's passage will directly assist local municipalities in their flood control and management efforts.

Please contact Steve Walz, COG's Director of Environmental Programs at (202) 962-3205 or [swalz@mwkog.org](mailto:swalz@mwkog.org) if you have any questions.

Thank you for your bill that would provide funding for flood resiliency, in addition to entering VA into RGGI.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Sze'.

Hon. Daniel Sze  
Chair, Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Stehle'.

Hon. Jon Stehle  
Chair, Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee

cc: The Honorable Jennifer B. Boysko



Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments

March 4, 2020

The Honorable Adam P. Ebbin  
Virginia Senate  
Pocahontas Building  
900 East Main Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

RE: Support for Local Ordinances to Tax Disposable Plastic Bags

Dear Senator Ebbin,

On behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CPBC), I am writing to offer my support for the conference committee's work to find common ground regarding SB 11 to reduce single-use products.

We strongly support giving all localities the option to develop a tax of five cents per bag on disposable plastic bags provided to consumers by certain retailers. Giving localities the opportunity to enact this tax and to locally retain the revenue from single-use products, such as disposable bags, will directly reduce plastic pollution in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

We strongly support the revenues from the tax to be used by the locality for the purposes of local and regional recycling programs, solid waste and environmental cleanup, water pollution mitigation, or mitigation of pollution and litter.

Supporting policies to meet local and state sustainability goals is a COG policy priority and the bill's passage will directly assist local municipalities in their efforts to improve water quality and reduce waste.

Please contact Steve Walz, COG's Director of Environmental Programs at (202) 962-3205 or [swalz@mwkog.org](mailto:swalz@mwkog.org) if you have any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Stehle'.

Hon. Jon Stehle  
Chair, Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee

cc: The Honorable Barbara A. Favola  
The Honorable Jennifer L. McClellan  
The Honorable Jill Holtzman Vogel  
The Honorable Betsy B. Carr  
The Honorable Alfonso H. Lopez  
The Honorable Lee Ware



March 12, 2020

The Honorable John Barraso  
Chair of the Committee on Environment and Public Works  
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper  
Ranking Member of the Committee on Environment and Public Works  
513 Hart Senate Office Building  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for Chesapeake Bay Program Reauthorization Act, HR 1620 and S 701

Dear Chairman Barraso and Ranking Member Senator Carper:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC), I am writing to offer our strong support for HR1620 (Rep. Luria) and S 701 (Sen. Cardin) to reauthorize funding of \$90.5 million for the base budget of the Chesapeake Bay Program in FY 2021.

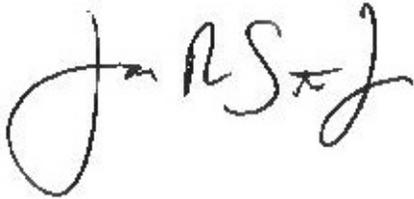
As a bipartisan organization that includes 300 elected officials from 24 local governments, as well as the Virginia and Maryland state legislatures, and the U.S. Congress, COG has a long history of recognizing the Chesapeake Bay as a critical cultural and economic resource for the metropolitan Washington region, which is also driving water quality improvements of local rivers. COG's Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee was formed in 1998 to ensure our local governments had a strong voice in the Chesapeake Bay Agreement process and has had great involvement with the Chesapeake Bay Program ever since.

For decades, our local governments, states and the Federal government have cooperated and committed tremendous resources to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Great progress has been made due to the leadership, guidance, science and funding support provided by the Chesapeake Bay Program. The Chesapeake Bay Program is uniquely positioned to assure accountability among the six Bay states and the District of Columbia, and to do monitoring and modeling of Bay water quality across the multi-state region. This important reauthorization of funding for the Chesapeake Bay Program will help sustain Bay water quality progress and support the billions of dollars in clean water infrastructure investments made by local governments in the COG region. For these reasons and more, we unreservedly endorse a reauthorization of \$90.5M for the Chesapeake Bay Program in FY '21 and sustained funding for the next five years, as proposed in HR 1620 and S 701.

Please contact Steve Walz, COG's Director of Environmental Programs at (202) 962-3205 or [swalz@mwkog.org](mailto:swalz@mwkog.org) if you have any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Stehle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hon. Jon Stehle  
Chair, Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee

cc: Congressman Don Beyer  
Congressman Anthony Brown  
Senator Ben Cardin  
Congressman Gerry Connolly  
Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Congressman Steny Hoyer  
Senator Tim Kaine  
Congresswoman Elaine Luria  
Congressman Jamie Raskin  
Congressman Denver Riggleman  
Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger  
Congressman John Sarbanes  
Congressman David Trone  
Senator Christopher Van Hollen  
Senator Mark Warner  
Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton  
Congressman Robert Wittman